

ability of the board of governors of The American National Red Cross to support the critical mission of The American Red Cross in the 21st century, and for other purposes.

S. 684

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 684, a bill to clarify the authority of the Secretary of the Interior with respect to the management of the elk population located in the Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

S. RES. 33

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 33, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the United States should expand its relationship with the Republic of Georgia by commencing negotiations to enter into a free trade agreement.

S. RES. 84

At the request of Mr. BROWNBACK, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 84, a resolution observing February 23, 2007, as the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the slave trade in the British Empire, honoring the distinguished life and legacy of William Wilberforce, and encouraging the people of the United States to follow the example of William Wilberforce by selflessly pursuing respect for human rights around the world.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. 687. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a business credit against income for the purchase of fishing safety equipment; to the Committee on Finance.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Commercial Fishermen Safety Act of 2007, a bill to help fishermen purchase the life-saving safety equipment they need to survive when disaster strikes. I am pleased to be joined by my colleague from Massachusetts, Senator Kennedy, in introducing this legislation.

Everyday, members of our fishing communities struggle to cope with the pressures of running a small business, complying with burdensome regulations, and maintaining their vessels and equipment. Added to these challenges are the dangers associated with fishing.

Year-in and year-out, commercial fishing ranks among the Nation's most dangerous occupations. Last August, when the Bureau of Labor Statistics released the most recent National Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, fishing was the most dangerous occupation. While the national rate of occupational-related fatalities dropped by 1 percent in 2005, I am saddened to say that the fishing community saw an in-

crease of almost 14 percent from the previous year. I have introduced similar measures in previous sessions of Congress, but these tragic statistics illustrate why this piece of legislation is absolutely needed right now.

And as we know, these statistics have a very real face to them. And sadly, the New England fishing community is certainly no stranger to the pain and loss of their own.

Last November, the small fishing community of Port Clyde saw the tragic loss of one their own. The Taylor Emily, a 48-foot fishing boat, capsized and sank about 80 miles east of Portland, ME. Tragically, long-time fisherman Jim Weaver perished in this incident. Another fisherman aboard the boat, Christopher Yattaw, was saved when the Taylor Emily sank. Chris treaded the frigid waters for almost an hour, but finally, the boat's life raft inflated. Almost 8 hours later, Chris was rescued from the life raft by a passing fishing vessel. This incident could have been even more tragic if the critical live-saving equipment had not been aboard.

Coast Guard regulations require all fishing vessels to carry safety equipment. The requirements vary depending on factors such as the size of the vessel, the temperature of the water, and the distance the vessel travels from shore to fish. Required equipment can include a life raft that automatically inflates and floats free, should the vessel sink. This is what saved Christopher Yattaw's life. Other live-saving equipment includes: personal flotation devices or immersion suits which help protect fishermen from exposure and increase buoyancy; EPIRBs, which relay a downed vessel's position to Coast Guard Search and Rescue Personnel; visual distress signals; and fire extinguishers. When an emergency arises, safety equipment is priceless. At all other times, the cost of purchasing or maintaining this equipment must compete with other expenses such as loan payments, fuel, wages, maintenance, and insurance.

The Commercial Fishermen Safety Act of 2007 provides a tax credit equal to 75 percent of the amount paid by fishermen to purchase or maintain required safety equipment. The tax credit is capped at \$1,500. Items such as EPIRBs and immersion suits cost hundreds of dollars, while life rafts can reach into the thousands. The tax credit will make life-saving equipment more affordable for more fishermen, who currently face limited options under the Federal tax code.

We have seen far too many tragedies in this occupation. Please, let us support fishermen who are trying to prepare in case disaster strikes. Safety equipment saves lives. By providing a tax credit for the purchase of safety equipment, Congress can help ensure that fishermen have a better chance of returning home each and every time they head out to sea.

I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be put in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 687

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Commercial Fishermen Safety Act of 2007".

SEC. 2. CREDIT FOR PURCHASE OF FISHING SAFETY EQUIPMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subpart D of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to business-related credits) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"SEC. 450. FISHING SAFETY EQUIPMENT CREDIT.

"(a) GENERAL RULE.—For purposes of section 38, in the case of an eligible taxpayer, the fishing safety equipment credit determined under this section for the taxable year is 75 percent of the amount of qualified fishing safety equipment expenses paid or incurred by the taxpayer during the taxable year.

"(b) LIMITATION ON MAXIMUM CREDIT.—The credit allowed under subsection (a) with respect to a taxpayer for the taxable year shall not exceed \$1,500.

"(c) ELIGIBLE TAXPAYER.—For purposes of this section, the term 'eligible taxpayer' means a taxpayer engaged in a fishing business.

"(d) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section—

"(1) FISHING BUSINESS.—The term 'fishing business' means the conduct of commercial fishing as defined in section 3 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1802).

"(2) QUALIFIED FISHING SAFETY EQUIPMENT EXPENSES.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'qualified fishing safety equipment expenses' means an amount paid or incurred for fishing safety equipment for use by the taxpayer in connection with a fishing business.

"(B) FISHING SAFETY EQUIPMENT.—The term 'fishing safety equipment' means—

"(i) lifesaving equipment required to be carried by a vessel under section 4502 of title 46, United States Code, and

"(ii) any maintenance of such equipment required under such section.

"(e) SPECIAL RULES.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Rules similar to the rules of subsections (c), (d), and (e) of section 52 shall apply for purposes of this section.

"(2) AGGREGATION RULES.—All persons treated as a single employer under subsection (a) or (b) of section 52 or subsection (m) or (o) of section 414 shall be treated as one person for purposes of subsection (a).

"(f) DENIAL OF DOUBLE BENEFIT.—No deduction shall be allowed under this chapter (other than a credit under this section) for any amount taken into account in determining the credit under this section.

"(g) BASIS ADJUSTMENT.—For purposes of this subtitle, if a credit is allowed under this section with respect to any equipment, the basis of such equipment shall be reduced by the amount of the credit so allowed."

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 38(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to general business credit) is amended by striking "plus" at the end of paragraph (30), by striking the period at the end of paragraph (31) and inserting "plus", and by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(32) the fishing safety equipment credit determined under section 450(a)."

(2) Subsection (a) of section 1016 of such Code is amended by striking "and" at the

end of paragraph (36), by striking the period at the end of paragraph (37) and inserting “, and”, and by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(38) in the case of equipment with respect to which a credit was allowed under section 450, to the extent provided in section 450(g).”.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for subpart D of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

“Sec. 450. Fishing safety equipment credit.”.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act.

By Mr. LUGAR (for himself and Mrs. LINCOLN):

S. 689. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend and expand the charitable deduction for contributions of food inventory; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, on behalf of myself and Senator LINCOLN, I rise today to introduce the “Good Samaritan Hunger Relief Tax Incentive Extension Act of 2007”. This important legislation extends and expands the food bank donation provisions that were included in the Pension Protection Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-280). The Pension Protection Act allows farmers and small business owners to receive a tax deduction for donation of food products contributed to food banks, pantries and homeless shelters for 2006 and 2007.

The new law permits businesses a deduction from their taxes for a donation equal to either (1) twice cost basis; or (2) the difference of cost basis plus one half the difference between cost basis and fair market value. Food donations of all sizes from all businesses can qualify for this type of donation. The bill that I am introducing today increases the valuation to full market value of the donation and makes this provision a permanent part of the Internal Revenue Code.

Demand on food banks has been rising, and these tax deductions would be an important step in increasing private donations to the non-profit hunger relief charities playing a critical role in meeting America's nutrition needs. It is estimated that food banks provide meals to more than 23 million Americans and that 13 million children are hungry or at risk of hunger.

As I have traveled around Indiana, I have visited many food banks in our State. They have confirmed the results of a study by the U.S. Conference of Mayors that showed demand for food at food banks has risen one hundred percent. Forty-eight percent of the people requesting emergency food assistance are either children or their parents. The number of elderly persons requesting food assistance has increased by ninety-two percent. The success of welfare reform legislation has moved many recipients off welfare and into jobs. In many States, welfare roles have been reduced by more than half.

But we need to recognize that these individuals and their families are living on modest wages. As unemployment rates have risen, as with the fluctuation of the price of gas and heating oil, the demand placed on the food banks and soup kitchens has also increased.

Private food banks provide a key safety net against hunger. According to a report by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, 31 million Americans are living on the edge of hunger. USDA statistics show that up to 96 billion pounds of food go to waste each year in the United States. If a small percentage of this wasted food could be redirected to food banks, we could make important strides in our fight against hunger.

I have been especially impressed by the remarkable work of food banks in Indiana. In many cases, they are partnered with churches and faith-based organizations and are making a tremendous difference in our communities. We should support this private sector activity, which not only feeds people, but also strengthens community bonds and demonstrates the power of faith, charity, and civic involvement.

Each citizen can make an important contribution to the fight against hunger at a local level. It is important to make sure that none of us forget those who find themselves having to utilize the services of the food banks. In order to ensure that hunger relief organizations are meeting the greater demand they are seeing, we must make food drives a part of everyday activities. People should get in the habit of buying extra cans or boxes of food on every trip to the grocery store, not just around the holiday season.

I am committed to work with Chairman BAUCUS and Ranking Member GRASSLEY to find an offset to pay for this change to the tax code. I would like to thank them for their past support of this initiative and commend them on their efforts in helping America's charities meet their funding goals, and assist those individuals who take advantage of the services provided by these groups.

I believe the enactment of this legislation would be a great incentive in redirecting this food from being discarded to being distributed to hungry families.

By Ms. LANDRIEU:

S. 690. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to authorize the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to waive the prohibition on duplication of certain disaster relief assistance; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to highlight the ongoing needs of our small businesses and homeowners in the Gulf coast who were devastated by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. In Louisiana alone, these disasters claimed 1,464 lives, destroyed more than 200,000

homes and 18,000 businesses and inflicted \$25 billion in uninsured losses. Many of my colleagues here in the Senate have been down to Louisiana and have seen firsthand the size and scope of the destruction. The Congress has been very generous in providing billions of Federal recovery dollars as well as valuable Gulf Opportunity, GO, Zone tax incentives to help spur recovery in the region. These resources will be key in the recovery of the region but there are additional needs on the ground that still must be addressed. That is why I am proud to introduce a bill today, the Catastrophic Disaster Recovery Improvements Act of 2007, which I believe, addresses a specific problem which is impacting homeowners throughout the Gulf coast.

Katrina was the most destructive hurricane ever to hit the United States. The next month, in September, Hurricane Rita hit the Louisiana and Texas coast. It was the second most powerful hurricane ever to hit the United States, wreaking havoc on the southwestern part of my State and the east Texas coast. This one-two punch devastated Louisiana lives, communities and jobs, stretching from Cameron Parish in the west to Plaquemines Parish in the east.

We are now rebuilding our State and the wide variety of communities that were devastated by Rita and Katrina, areas representing a diverse mix of population, income and cultures. We hope to restore the region's uniqueness and its greatness. To do that, we need to rebuild our local economies now and far into the future. We cannot succeed, however, if our homeowners are being buried under Federal red tape and regulations.

The people who work for the Small Business Administration and FEMA are dedicated and interested to help in the recovery of our region. However, these individuals are operating under a system which is inadequate and, in some cases, unresponsive to needs on the ground.

I come to the floor today to introduce a bill which provides a common-sense solution to get the Federal assistance to our struggling homeowners. If we don't help them now, building a strong Gulf coast will be all the more difficult if residents cannot rebuild their homes and businesses cannot open their doors.

For homeowners in Louisiana, the State is doing its part by setting up the Louisiana Road Home program, to provide homeowners with up to \$150,000 in grant proceeds for uninsured losses on their properties. This program is State-administered, but supplemental CDBG-funded. However, many applicants are concerned because under the Stafford and Small Business Acts, the SBA is required to ensure there are no “duplication of benefits” provided to disaster victims. This means that SBA must review every file which received an SBA Disaster Loan, and if there is deemed to be duplication, deduct the

duplication amount from the grant proceeds. As I said, I want the SBA to ensure taxpayers funds are used wisely, but at the same time, I want to ensure that all residents are able to get the funds they need to rebuild their homes.

Under the current scenario, some residents who have additional uninsured losses, are being required to still pay back these grant proceeds. This is because many SBA loss inspections were done right after the storms in 2005, but since then building/labor costs have increased dramatically, and this is not reflected in the SBA verified loss. Borrowers are able to request a loan modification from SBA, but many residents who waited months and months for SBA to respond are wary to go through the process again, especially if there is a prospect they will be declined for the increased loan amount. I can't blame them because there is enough uncertainty down there right now. Personally, I would also be hesitant to go through the SBA loan process again if I had to fill out as much paperwork as my constituents have had to fill out, and to receive constant requests for more information once they think they are done with submitting information.

For this reason, this bill provides the SBA administrator the flexibility to waive, partially or fully at the discretion of the administrator, this "duplication of benefits" rule. This provides borrowers with additional funds for rebuilding while retaining the Federal Government's financial responsibility to taxpayers. I believe this common-sense fix for major disasters corrects a major problem occurring in Louisiana right now and gives SBA some flexibility for future major disasters. The current SBA interpretation of these regulations overlooks the fact that a grant, with no repayment, has a different value to homeowners than loans, which require repayment. In effect, disaster victims are being penalized for getting an SBA loan before they received their Road Home grant and that is not how the Federal Government should respond to victims, who in many cases, lost everything. We should not allow victims to "double-dip" or benefit from the disaster, but the Federal Government should be responsive to needs on the ground and adjust as necessary to allow disaster victims to fully recover.

In introducing this bill today, I am hopeful it sends the signal to gulf coast residents that Congress has not forgotten about them and that we are doing our part to reduce red tape and bureaucracy. Congress did a great deal during the 109th Congress to help victims of the 2005 storms, but that does not mean we should just write off recurring problems to the responsibility of States or disaster victims themselves. I believe that both the leadership on the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship as well as the new SBA administrator, Steve Preston, are receptive to ad-

ressing ongoing needs in the gulf coast. I look forward to working closely with them in the coming weeks to provide substantive and lasting solutions for our small businesses and homeowners.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation and ask unanimous consent that the text of the legislation be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 690

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Catastrophic Disaster Recovery Improvements Act of 2007".

SEC. 2. WAIVER OF PROHIBITION ON DUPLICATION OF CERTAIN BENEFITS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)) is amended by inserting immediately after paragraph (3) the following:

"(4) WAIVER OF PROHIBITION ON DUPLICATION OF CERTAIN BENEFITS.—For any major disaster (as that term is defined in section 102 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122)), in providing assistance under paragraph (1) or (2), the Administrator may waive, in whole or in part, the prohibition on the duplication of benefits, including whether damage or destruction has been compensated for by, credit is available from, activities are reimbursable through, or funds have been made available from any other source."

(b) APPLICABILITY AND RETROACTIVITY FOR VICTIMS OF HURRICANES KATRINA, RITA, AND WILMA.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to any assistance under section 7(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)) provided on or after August 29, 2005.

By Mr. CONRAD:

S. 691. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security act to improve the benefits under the Medicare program for beneficiaries with kidney disease, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, today I am pleased to introduce the Kidney Care Quality and Education Act. For the over 400,000 Americans living with kidney disease, the time has come to modernize and improve the Medicare End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) program. They simply can't wait any longer.

When Congress enacted the Medicare ESRD program, we recognized that this disease was unique and deserved special consideration. Unfortunately, since that time, Congress has fallen behind in its commitment, and the program has not kept pace with changes in treatment. My bill would take needed steps to modernize and improve the program to recognize quality and encourage education on kidney disease to better prevent and control ESRD.

The Kidney Care Quality and Education Act establishes education programs to assist patients with kidney disease to learn important self-management skills that will help them manage their disease more effectively

and improve their quality of life. The bill also seeks to help individuals before they develop irreversible kidney failure by teaching individuals about the factors that lead to chronic kidney disease, the precursor to kidney failure, and how to prevent it, treat it, and, most importantly, avoid it. Additionally, the bill seeks to establish uniform training requirements for dialysis technicians and to identify barriers to accessing the home dialysis benefit.

Improving the ESRD program payment system and ensuring continued high quality care is also a critical component of modernizing the ESRD program. Medicare established the first prospective payment system (PPS) in the ESRD program in the early 1980s. Yet, the ESRD program remains the only Medicare PPS that does not receive an annual update. As a result, dialysis facilities have experienced difficulties in hiring qualified health care professionals and purchasing new technology.

It is time for the dialysis community to receive annual payment updates; however, it is also critically important that increased payments are tied to high quality. My bill addresses both of these issues by creating a three-year Continuous Quality Improvement Initiative to link payments with quality. First, the three-year initiative would create an annual update mechanism to fairly pay providers. Second, it would ask providers to report on quality measures developed through consultation with key stakeholders. Finally, it would withhold a certain percentage of the annual update to fund a quality bonus pool from which payments would be made to those providers who provide the best quality of care.

Congress must reaffirm its commitment to Americans with kidney failure by improving the program through new educational programs, quality initiatives, and payment reform. The Kidney Care Quality and Education Act is a comprehensive bill that moves the program in that direction. I urge my colleagues to join with me in supporting this important legislation.

By Mr. FEINGOLD (for himself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 693. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the Automated Defibrillation in Adam's Memory Act; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, today I am pleased to be joined by the Senator from Maine, Ms. COLLINS, in introducing the reauthorization of the Automated Defibrillators in Adam's Memory Act, or the ADAM Act. This bill is modeled after the successful Project ADAM that originally began in Wisconsin, and will reauthorize a program to establish a national clearing house to provide schools with the "how-to" and technical advice to set up a public access defibrillation program.

Sudden cardiac death from coronary heart disease occurs over 900 times per

day in the United States. By improving access to automated external defibrillators, or AEDs, we can improve the survival rates of cardiac arrest in our communities.

In my home State of Wisconsin, as in many other States, heart disease is the number one killer. In 2004, 35.4 percent of all deaths in Wisconsin were caused by heart disease and stroke. Overall, heart disease kills more Americans than AIDS, cancer and accidents combined.

Cardiac arrest can strike anyone. Cardiac victims are in a race against time, and unfortunately, for too many of those in rural areas, Emergency Medical Services are unable to reach people in need, and time runs out. It's simply not possible to have EMS units next to every farm and small town across the Nation.

Fortunately, recent technological advances have made the newest generation of AEDs inexpensive and simple to operate. Because of these advancements in AED technology, it is now practical to train and equip police officers, teachers, and members of other community organizations.

An estimated 164,600 Americans experience out-of-hospital sudden cardiac arrests each year. Immediate CPR and early defibrillation using an AED can more than double a victim's chance of survival. By taking some relatively simple steps, we can give victims of cardiac arrest a better chance of survival.

Over the past 6 years, I have worked with Senator SUSAN COLLINS, a Republican from Maine, on a number of initiatives to empower communities to improve cardiac arrest survival rates. We have pushed Congress to support rural first responders—local police and fire and rescue services—in their efforts to provide early defibrillation. Congress heard our call, and responded by enacting two of our bills, the Rural Access to Emergency Devices Act and the ADAM Act.

The Rural Access to Emergency Devices program allows community partnerships across the country to receive a grant enabling them to purchase defibrillators, and receive the training needed to use these devices. I'm pleased to say that grants have already put defibrillators in rural communities in 49 States, helping those communities be better prepared when cardiac arrest strikes.

Approximately 95 percent of sudden cardiac arrest victims die before reaching the hospital. Every minute that passes before a cardiac arrest victim is defibrillated, the chance of survival falls by as much as 10 percent. After only 8 minutes, the victim's survival rate drops by 60 percent. This is why early intervention is essential—a combination of CPR and use of AEDs can save lives.

Heart disease is not only a problem among adults. A few years ago I learned the story of Adam Lemel, a 17-year-old high school student and a star

basketball and tennis player in Wisconsin. Tragically, during a timeout while playing basketball at a neighboring Milwaukee high school, Adam suffered sudden cardiac arrest, and died before the paramedics arrived.

This story is incredibly sad. Adam had his whole life ahead of him, and could quite possibly have been saved with appropriate early intervention. In fact, we have seen a number of examples in Wisconsin where early CPR and access to defibrillation have saved lives.

Seventy miles away from Milwaukee, a 14-year-old boy collapsed while playing basketball. Within 3 minutes, the emergency team arrived and began CPR. Within 5 minutes of his collapse, the paramedics used an AED to jump start his heart. Not only has this young man survived, doctors have identified his father and brother as having the same heart condition and have begun preventative treatments.

These stories help to underscore some important issues. First, although cardiac arrest is most common among adults, it can occur at any age—even in apparently healthy children and adolescents. Second, early intervention is essential—a combination of CPR and the use of AEDs can save lives. Third, some individuals who are at risk for sudden cardiac arrest can be identified to prevent cardiac arrest.

After Adam Lemel suffered his cardiac arrest, his friend David Ellis joined forces with Children's Hospital of Wisconsin to initiate Project ADAM to bring CPR training and public access defibrillation into schools, educate communities about preventing sudden cardiac deaths and save lives.

Today, Project ADAM has introduced AEDs into several Wisconsin schools, and has been a model for programs in Washington, Florida, Michigan and elsewhere. Project ADAM provides a model for the Nation, and now, with the enactment of this new law, more schools will have access to the information they seek to launch similar programs.

The ADAM Act was passed into law in 2003, but has yet to be funded. Should funding be enacted, the program will help to put life-saving defibrillators in the hands of people in schools around the country. I have been very proud to play a part in having this bill signed into law, and it is my hope that the reauthorization of the Act will quickly pass through the Congress and into law, and that funding will follow. It would not take much money to fund this program and save lives across the country.

The ADAM Act is one way we can honor the life of children like Adam Lemel, and give tomorrow's pediatric cardiac arrest victims a fighting chance at life.

This act exists because a family that experienced the tragic loss of their son was determined to spare other families that same loss. I thank Adam's parents, Joe and Patty, for their coura-

geous efforts and I thank them for everything they have done to help the ADAM Act become law. Their actions take incredible bravery, and I commend them for their efforts.

By making sure that AEDs are available in our Nation's rural areas, schools and throughout our communities we can help those in a race against time have a fighting chance of survival when they fall victim to cardiac arrest. I urge Congress to pass this reauthorization, and to fund this Act. We have the power to prevent death—all we must do is act.

I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 693

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Automated Defibrillation in Adam's Memory Reauthorization Act".

SEC. 2. AMENDMENT TO PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE ACT.

Section 312(e) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 244(e)) is amended in the first sentence by striking "fiscal year 2003" and all the follows through "2006" and inserting "for each of fiscal years 2003 through 2011".

By Mrs. CLINTON (for herself, Mr. SUNUNU, Mr. REED, Mr. KERRY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. ROBERTS, Mrs. HUTCHISON, and Mr. LAUTENBERG):

S. 694. A bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to issue regulations to reduce the incidence of child injury and death occurring inside or outside of light motor vehicles, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mrs. CLINTON. Mr. President, today I am reintroducing with my colleague Senator SUNUNU The Cameron Gulbransen Kids and Cars Safety Act, a bill to improve the child safety features in new vehicles.

While we hear a great deal about automobile accidents, we don't hear nearly as much about non-traffic automobile accidents, which can be just as tragic. This bill is named in honor of a 2-year-old Long Island boy who was killed when his father accidentally backed over him in his driveway. Since 2000, over 1,150 children have died in non-traffic, non-crash incidents, and this number has been steadily rising. The average age of victims in these cases is just 1 year old, and in 70 percent of backover cases, a parent, relative or close friend is behind the wheel. This bill is aimed at preventing other families from suffering this fate.

The Cameron Gulbransen Kids and Cars Safety Act would make new passenger motor vehicles safer in three important ways. First, it requires a detection system to alert drivers to the

presence of a child behind the vehicle. Second, it will ensure that power windows automatically reverse direction when they detect an obstruction—preventing children from being trapped, injured or killed. And finally, the bill will require the vehicle service break to be engaged in order to prevent vehicles from unintentionally rolling away.

The bill also establishes a child safety information program administered by the Secretary of Transportation to collect non-traffic, non-crash incident data and disseminate information to parents about these hazards and ways to mitigate them.

This bill proves that with modest, cost-effective steps, we can prevent many tragic car-related accidents from occurring. Power window sensors, for example, cost around \$10 a window. Brakeshift interlocks are already standard in most passenger vehicles, but will cost only \$5 where needed. Backover warning systems cost approximately \$300 a car, far cheaper than DVD and stereo systems. This inexpensive technology could save thousands of children's lives.

I fought long and hard into the last hours of the 109th Congress to get this bill through and I know that families, advocates and many of my colleagues are poised to continue that momentum in the new Congress.

I am proud to be reintroducing the Cameron Gulbransen Kids and Cars Safety Act of 2007 and urge all my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill. Together, we can ensure that we have safer cars and safer kids across our country.

By Ms. SNOWE (for herself and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. 695. A bill to amend the International Claims Settlement Act of 1949 to allow for certain claims of nationals of the United States against Turkey, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, as you may know, Turkey invaded the northern area of the Republic of Cyprus in the summer of 1974. At that time, less than 20 percent of the private real property in this area was owned by Turkish Cypriots, with the rest owned by Greek Cypriots and foreigners. Turkey's invasion and subsequent occupation of northern Cyprus displaced people who are to this day prevented by the Turkish Armed Forces from returning to and repossessing their homes and properties.

A large proportion of these properties were distributed to, and are currently being used by, the 120,000 Turkish settlers brought into the occupied area by Turkey. It is estimated that 7,000 to 10,000 U.S. nationals today claim an interest in such property.

Adding urgency to the plight of Greek-Cypriots and Americans who lost property in the wake of the invasion is a recent property development boom in the Turkish-occupied north of Cyprus. As an ever-increasing number

of disputed properties are transferred or developed, the rightful owners' prospects for recovering their property or being compensated worsen.

In 1998, the European Court of Human Rights found that Turkey had unlawfully deprived Greek Cypriot refugees of the use of their properties in the north of the island. The Court ruled that the Government of Turkey was obliged to compensate the refugees for such deprivation, and to allow them to return home.

It is to provide similar redress to the American victims of Turkey's invasion and occupation of Cyprus that my colleague Senator MENENDEZ and I today introduce the "American-Owned Property in Occupied Cyprus Claims Act".

This act would direct the U.S. Government's independent Foreign Claims Settlement Commission to receive, evaluate and determine awards with respect to the claims of U.S. citizens and businesses that lost property as a result of Turkey's invasion and continued occupation of northern Cyprus. To provide funds from which these awards would be paid, the act would urge the President to authorize the Secretary of State to negotiate an agreement for settlement of such claims with the Government of Turkey.

The act would further grant U.S. Federal courts jurisdiction over suits by U.S. nationals against any private persons, other than Turkey, occupying or otherwise using the U.S. national's property in the Turkish-occupied portion of Cyprus. Lastly, the act would expressly waive Turkey's sovereign immunity against claims brought by U.S. nationals in U.S. courts relating to property occupied by the Government of Turkey and used by Turkey in connection with a commercial activity carried out in the United States.

This bill represents an important step toward righting the internationally recognized wrong of the expropriation of property, including American property, in northern Cyprus in the wake of the 1974 invasion by the Turkish Army. I strongly urge my colleagues to promptly consider and pass this critical piece of legislation.

By Mr. BAUCUS:

S. 696. A bill to establish an Advanced Research Projects Administration-Energy to initiate high risk, innovative energy research to improve the energy security of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, energy is once again one of the top two or three domestic issues facing the Congress this year.

Prices for gasoline, heating oil, electricity, and natural gas have soared in recent years, hitting working families hard. Our energy security has been threatened on many fronts: We have seen a terrorist attack on Saudi Arabian oil facilities, oil workers kidnapped in Nigeria, Venezuelan Presi-

dent Hugo Chavez threatened to cut off our supply of oil from his country, and some question whether Iran's role as an oil supplier keeps other countries from properly addressing Iran's nuclear proliferation threat. Recently we learned that Russia and Iran are talking about creating an OPEC-like organization for natural gas—a cartel that could put even more pressure on natural gas prices.

Energy provides one of America's greatest challenges for the 21st century. Our economy has been dependent on oil and coal for about 100 years. And since World War II, natural gas has become part of the equation. Will we continue to rely on these energy sources for the next 100 years?

The cost of energy will profoundly affect the future competitiveness of the American economy. As the Chinese and Indian economies grow, so will their demand for energy. And that will add further upward pressure to energy prices.

Global climate change is another issue that demands that we take a fresh look at our energy future. While we address the issue of energy security, we must also keep an eye on the effect that new energy development will have on carbon dioxide emissions and global warming.

We are essentially trapped in an energy box. It is a box characterized by high imports, wildly fluctuating prices for oil and natural gas, and environmental danger. As a Nation, we must experiment with ways to break out of that box. To break out, we need an energy research effort modeled after the Manhattan project, or the Apollo mission to the moon.

America has a brilliant record of gathering the best minds. We have consistently met challenges that at first seemed to be impossible. During World War II, the Manhattan project brought together brilliant physicists and engineers to build an atomic bomb in 3 short years. And after President Kennedy described his vision to a joint session of Congress in May of 1961, the Apollo space program put a man on the moon in just 8 years.

Looking back, these achievements look stunning. Both projects started out with no guarantee of success. Each could have ended in utter failure. Yet because of the talent, ingenuity, and focus of creative minds, they both succeeded.

Breaking out of the energy box poses a similar challenge. Success is not guaranteed. But we have got to give it our best shot.

Today I am reintroducing legislation to create an ARPA-E, Advanced Research Projects Agency—Energy. My legislation would create a new energy research agency to help our nation face the challenges of a newly competitive global economy. It will help us to move into a new energy future.

We have the greatest research scientists on the planet. We have the most technically-talented workforce in

the world. But we do not have the vigor that we need in energy research. Energy research is a backwater, compared to other research efforts in biotechnology, medicine, computers, and defense-oriented projects.

With the Manhattan project and the Apollo space program, America proved that we can gather the best talent for a focused mission and succeed. It is time that we began a similar effort on energy.

We need to create a new agency to initiate cutting-edge, innovative energy research and development aimed at taking us to a new energy future. Doing so is essential to our effort to improve our economic competitiveness.

The new agency is modeled on DARPA—the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency—in the Department of Defense. Among the revolutionary technologies that DARPA has developed are the internet and stealth technology for aircraft. DARPA has been a tremendous success.

The National Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of Engineering, and the Institute of Medicine joined to form the Committee on Prospering in the Global Economy of the 21st Century. Norm Augustine chaired the committee. Based on DARPA's achievements, the committee recommended the creation of an ARPA-E: Advanced Research Projects Agency—Energy.

This was one of a number of recommendations that the committee made in its impressive 2005 report on the future competitive challenges that America faces. The committee recommended that ARPA-E be designed to conduct transformative, out-of-the-box energy research.

My bill proposes that ARPA-E be a small agency with a total of 250 people. A minimum of 180 of them would be technical staff. A director of the agency and four deputies would lead ARPA-E. I propose that ARPA-E be funded at \$300 million in fiscal year 2008, \$600 million in 2009, \$1.1 billion in 2010, \$1.5 billion in 2011, and \$2.0 billion in 2012.

We would require that the staff have a technical background. The agency would use the Experimental Personnel Authority designed for DARPA. That authority authorizes higher salaries than for typical Federal employees, and faster hiring, so that the agency could get to work quickly.

To keep the intense, innovative focus that we want, technical staff would be limited to 3 to 4 years at the agency. Managers would be limited to 4 to 6 years. The director could give both groups extended terms of employment if the director so chose.

For contracts, the agency would use the DARPA procedure. That procedure allows more flexible contracting arrangements than are normally possible under the Federal Acquisition Regulations. To ensure that ARPA-E would conduct innovative research, 75 percent of research projects initiated by ARPA-E would not be peer reviewed.

The ARPA-E would be authorized to award cash prizes to encourage and ac-

celerate energy research accomplishments.

Finally, the bill would require a report by the end of fiscal year 2008 on whether ARPA-E would need its own energy research lab.

Congress enacted an important companion piece to ARPA-E last December in the Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006. That law extended the credit for electricity from renewable resources, added \$400 million to the Clean Renewable Energy Bond program, extended the deduction for energy efficient buildings and the credit for energy efficient homes, and provided incentives for cellulosic biomass ethanol facilities.

On the energy agenda this year is consideration of President Bush's proposal to increase Federal targets for use of renewable and alternative fuels. And additional tax incentives to encourage the development and use of alternative energy are being contemplated.

We are seeing exciting new efforts in America to strengthen our energy competitiveness. We need to build on this foundation by creating an aggressive energy research agency that will push the limits of new technology and discover alternative energy sources.

America has massive coal reserves. So coal gasification is receiving greater attention. Gasification involves breaking down coal under heat and pressure to create synthetic natural gas. We must address the environmental issues. But if this technology can be improved, then America will be able to take a huge step toward energy independence.

There are exciting developments in wind energy. In Montana, the Judith Gap Wind Farm has been generating power at full capacity, using 90 wind turbines. Each turbine can produce enough electricity for roughly 400 homes. The entire farm can produce the electricity needed to supply 300,000 customers. And my State ranks in the top 15 States in the Nation for wind power capacity. Nationwide, wind power generating capacity increased 27 percent in 2006.

Fusion is another possible area where aggressive research could lead to huge payoffs. Continuing research will help us to determine whether energy production through fusion is a practical option.

Ethanol is also gaining as an alternative energy option. The Nation's first cellulosic ethanol pilot facility has opened in Jennings, Louisiana. This 1.4 million gallons-per-year, demonstration-scale facility will produce cellulosic ethanol from sugarcane plant residue and specially-bred energy cane by the end of 2007.

There are also exciting developments in nanotechnology, solar power, energy-efficient materials, biomass, and green buildings.

All of these are examples of possible directions for our Nation's energy future. But we need a more aggressive

and focused research and development effort to push these alternatives. And we need an effort to create scientific breakthroughs to supplement existing technologies.

We have got to give it our best shot. As President Franklin Roosevelt said, we must conduct "bold, persistent experimentation."

Our economic security is at stake. Our ability to compete in the new world economy is at stake.

ARPA-E will help us to move forward on existing technologies. It will help us to find new technologies that are not even imaginable today.

I urge my Colleagues to look closely at this legislation.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 696

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Energy Research Act of 2007".

SEC. 2. ADVANCED RESEARCH PROJECTS ADMINISTRATION-ENERGY.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established the Advanced Research Projects Administration-Energy (referred to in this section as "ARPA-E").

(b) GOALS.—The goals of ARPA-E are to reduce the quantity of energy the United States imports from foreign sources and to improve the competitiveness of the United States economy by—

(1) promoting revolutionary changes in the critical technologies that would promote energy competitiveness;

(2) turning cutting-edge science and engineering into technologies for energy and environmental application; and

(3) accelerating innovation in energy and the environment for both traditional and alternative energy sources and in energy efficiency mechanisms to—

(A) reduce energy use;

(B) decrease the reliance of the United States on foreign energy sources; and

(C) improve energy competitiveness.

(c) DIRECTOR.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—ARPA-E shall be headed by a Director (referred to in this section as the "Director") appointed by the President.

(2) POSITIONS AT LEVEL V.—Section 5316 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"Director, Advanced Research Projects Administration-Energy."

(d) DUTIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out this section, the Director shall award competitive grants, cooperative agreements, or contracts to institutions of higher education, companies, or consortia of such entities (which may include federally funded research and development centers) to achieve the goal described in subsection (b) through acceleration of—

(A) energy-related research;

(B) development of resultant techniques, processes, and technologies, and related testing and evaluation; and

(C) demonstration and commercial application of the most promising technologies and research applications.

(2) SMALL-BUSINESS CONCERNS.—The Director shall carry out programs established

under this section, to the maximum extent practicable, in a manner that is similar to the Small Business Innovation Research Program established under section 9 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638) to ensure that small-business concerns are fully able to participate in the programs.

(e) PERSONNEL.—

(1) PROGRAM MANAGERS.—

(A) APPOINTMENT.—The Director shall appoint employees to serve as program managers for each of the programs that are established to carry out the duties of ARPA-E under this section.

(B) DUTIES.—Program managers shall be responsible for—

(i) establishing research and development goals for the program, as well as publicizing goals of the program to the public and private sectors;

(ii) soliciting applications for specific areas of particular promise, especially areas for which the private sector cannot or will not provide funding;

(iii) selecting research projects for support under the program from among applications submitted to ARPA-E, based on—

(I) the scientific and technical merit of the proposed projects;

(II) the demonstrated capabilities of the applicants to successfully carry out the proposed research project; and

(III) such other criteria as are established by the Director; and

(iv) monitoring the progress of projects supported under the program.

(2) OTHER PERSONNEL.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), the Director shall appoint such employees as are necessary to carry out the duties of ARPA-E under this section.

(B) LIMITATIONS.—The Director shall appoint not more than 250 employees to carry out the duties of ARPA-E under this section, including not less than 180 technical staff, of which—

(i) not less than 20 staff shall be senior technical managers (including program managers designated under paragraph (1)); and

(ii) not less than 80 staff shall be technical program managers.

(3) EXPERIMENTAL PERSONNEL AUTHORITY.—In appointing personnel for ARPA-E, the Director shall have the hiring and management authorities described in section 1101 of the Strom Thurmond National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1999 (Public Law 105-261; 5 U.S.C. 3104 note).

(4) MAXIMUM DURATION OF EMPLOYMENT.—

(A) PROGRAM MANAGERS AND SENIOR TECHNICAL MANAGERS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause (ii), a program manager and a senior technical manager appointed under this subsection shall serve for a term not to exceed 4 years after the date of appointment.

(ii) EXTENSIONS.—The Director may extend the term of employment of a program manager or a senior technical manager appointed under this subsection for not more than 4 years through 1 or more 2-year terms.

(B) TECHNICAL PROGRAM MANAGERS.—A technical program manager appointed under this subsection shall serve for a term not to exceed 6 years after the date of appointment.

(5) LOCATION.—The office of an officer or employee of ARPA-E shall not be located in the headquarters of the Department of Energy.

(f) TRANSACTIONS OTHER THAN CONTRACTS AND GRANTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—To carry out projects through ARPA-E, the Director may enter into transactions (other than contracts, cooperative agreements, and grants) to carry out advanced research projects under this section under similar terms and conditions as the authority is exercised under section

646(g) of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7256(g)).

(2) PEER REVIEW.—Peer review shall not be required for 75 percent of the research projects carried out by the Director under this section.

(g) PRIZES FOR ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY ACHIEVEMENTS.—The Director may carry out a program to award cash prizes in recognition of outstanding achievements in basic, advanced, and applied research, technology development, and prototype development that have the potential for application to the performance of the mission of ARPA-E under similar terms and conditions as the authority is exercised under section 1008 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16396).

(h) COORDINATION OF ACTIVITIES.—The Director—

(1) shall ensure that the activities of ARPA-E are coordinated with activities of Department of Energy offices and outside agencies; and

(2) may carry out projects jointly with other agencies.

(i) REPORT.—Not later than September 30, 2008, the Director shall submit to Congress a report on the activities of ARPA-E under this section, including a recommendation on whether ARPA-E needs an energy research laboratory.

(j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section—

(1) \$300,000,000 for fiscal year 2008;

(2) \$600,000,000 for fiscal year 2009;

(3) \$1,100,000,000 for fiscal year 2010;

(4) \$1,500,000,000 for fiscal year 2011; and

(5) \$2,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2012.

By Mr. SPECTER (for himself and Mr. CASEY):

S. 697. A bill to establish the Steel Industry National Historic Site in the State of Pennsylvania; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I have sought recognition to introduce legislation along with my colleague from Pennsylvania, Senator Casey, that will honor the importance of the steel industry in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the Nation by creating the "Steel Industry National Historic Site" to be operated by the National Park Service in southwestern Pennsylvania.

The importance of the steel industry to the development of the United States cannot be overstated. A national historic site devoted to the history of the steel industry will afford all Americans the opportunity to celebrate this rich heritage, which is symbolic of the work ethic endemic to this great nation. The National Park Service has reported that Congress should make remnants of the U.S. Steel Homestead Works an affiliate of the national park system, rather than a full national park, an option which had been considered in years prior, and which I proposed in the 107th Congress. Due to the backlog of maintenance projects at national parks, the legislation offered today instead creates a national historic site that would be affiliated with the National Park Service. There is no better place for such a site than in southwestern Pennsylvania, which played a significant role in early industrial America and continues today.

I have long supported efforts to preserve and enhance the historical steel-related heritage through the Rivers of Steel Heritage Area, which includes the city of Pittsburgh, and seven southwestern Pennsylvania counties: Allegheny; Armstrong; Fayette; Greene; Washington and Westmoreland. I have sought and been very pleased with congressional support for the important work within the Rivers of Steel Heritage Area expressed through appropriations levels of roughly \$1 million annually since fiscal year 1998. I am hopeful that this support will continue. However, more than just resources are necessary to ensure the historical recognition needed for this important heritage. That is why I am introducing this legislation today.

It is important to note why Pennsylvania should be the home of the national site that my legislation authorizes. The combination of a strong workforce, valuable natural resources, and Pennsylvania's strategic location in the heavily populated northeastern United States allowed the steel industry to thrive. Today, the remaining buildings and sites devoted to steel production are threatened with further deterioration. Many of these sites are nationally significant and perfectly suited for the study and interpretation of this crucial period in our Nation's development. Some of these sites include the Carrie Furnace Complex, the Hot Metal Bridge, and the United States Steel Homestead Works, which would all become a part of the Steel Industry National Historic Site under my legislation. As testimony of the area's historic significance, on September 20, 2006, the Carrie Furnaces were designated as a National Historic Landmark by the Secretary of the Interior.

Highlights of such a national historic site would commemorate a wide range of accomplishments and topics for historical preservation and interpretation from industrial process advancements to labor-management relations. It is important to note that the site I seek to become a national site under this bill includes the location of the Battle of the Homestead, waged in 1892 between steelworkers and Pinkerton guards. The Battle of the Homestead marked a crucial period in our nation's workers' rights movement. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, individuals, and public and private entities have attempted to protect and preserve resources such as the Homestead battleground the Hot Metal Bridge. For the benefit and inspiration of present and future generations, it is time for the Federal Government to join this effort to recognize their importance with the additional protection I provide in this bill.

I would like to commend my colleague, Representative DOYLE, who has been a longstanding leader in this preservation effort and who has consistently sponsored identical legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives. I look forward to working with southwestern Pennsylvania officials and Mr.

August Carlino, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Steel Industry Heritage Corporation, in order to bring this national historic site to fruition. We came very close to passing this bill in the 108th Congress with its passage in various forms in the House and the Senate. However, Congress adjourned prior to final passage of the same bill in both chambers during the 108th and 109th Congresses. Therefore, today we reintroduce this legislation and urge its swift passage.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. HAGEL, and Mr. WARNER):

S. 698. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand and enhance educational assistance for survivors and dependents of veterans; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today I am introducing the Veterans' Survivor Education Enhancement Act. This legislation would expand education benefits for the survivors and dependents of fallen servicemembers.

Specifically, the legislation would adjust the Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program by increasing the dependent benefit to \$80,000 which the dependent can draw against for any period between the ages of 17 and 30. This benefit may be used for any expenses incurred while pursuing an education, including: tuition, fees, books, room, and board. Education benefits may be used for degree and certificate programs, apprenticeship, and on-the-job training. The surviving spouse benefit also will rise to \$80,000 and may be used by the spouse for 20 years after the death of the servicemember.

Of the 24.3 million veterans currently alive, nearly three-quarters served during a war or an official period of conflict. About a quarter of the Nation's population, approximately 63 million people, are potentially eligible for veterans' benefits and services because they are veterans, family members or survivors of veterans. Since the dependents program was enacted in 1956, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) also has assisted in the education of more than 700,000 dependents of veterans whose deaths or total disabilities were service-connected. In 2005, VA helped pay for the education or training of 336,347 veterans and active-duty personnel, 87,589 reservists and National Guardsmen and 74,360 survivors.

Surviving families of veterans have already given so much to our Nation. We need to give the widowed spouses and children a helping hand. Therefore, in honor of these families and our brave fallen servicemembers, I encourage my colleagues to support the Veterans' Survivor Education Enhancement Act and cosponsor this important legislation.

I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 698

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Veterans' Survivors Education Enhancement Act of 2007".

SEC. 2. EXPANSION AND ENHANCEMENT OF EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR SURVIVORS AND DEPENDENTS OF VETERANS.

(a) TERMINATION OF DURATIONAL LIMITATION ON USE OF EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE AND RESTATEMENT OF CONTINUING REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) of section 3511 of title 38, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

"(a)(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter or chapter 36 of this title, any payment of educational assistance described in paragraph (2) shall not be charged against the entitlement of any individual under this chapter.

"(2) The payment of educational assistance referred to in paragraph (1) is the payment of such assistance to an individual for pursuit of a course or courses under this chapter if the Secretary finds that the individual—

"(A) had to discontinue such course pursuit as a result of being ordered to serve on active duty under section 688, 12301(a), 12301(d), 12301(g), 12302, or 12304 of title 10 or of being involuntarily ordered to full-time National Guard duty under section 502(f) of title 32; and

"(B) failed to receive credit or training time toward completion of the individual's approved educational, professional, or vocational objective as a result of having to discontinue, as described in subparagraph (A), the course pursuit."

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Such title 38 is further amended as follows:

(A) In section 3511, by amending the heading to read as follows:

"§ 3511. Treatment of certain interruptions in pursuit of programs of education".

(B) In section 3532(g)—

(i) in paragraph (1), by striking "paragraph (3)" and inserting "paragraph (2)";

(ii) by striking paragraph (2); and

(iii) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (2).

(C) By striking section 3541 and inserting the following new section:

"§ 3541. Special restorative training

"(a) The Secretary may, at the request of an eligible person—

"(1) determine whether such person is in need of special restorative training; and

"(2) if such need is found to exist, prescribe a course that is suitable to accomplish the purposes of this chapter.

"(b) A course of special restorative training under subsection (a) may, at the discretion of the Secretary, contain elements that would contribute toward an ultimate objective of a program of education."

(D) In section 3695(a)(4), by striking "35,".

(b) EXTENSION OF DELIMITING AGE OF ELIGIBILITY FOR DEPENDENTS.—Section 3512(a) of such title, is amended by striking "twenty-sixth birthday" each place it appears and inserting "thirtieth birthday".

(c) AMOUNT OF EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE.—(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 3532 of such title is amended to read as follows:

"§ 3532. Amount of educational assistance

"(a) The aggregate amount of educational assistance to which an eligible person is entitled under this chapter is \$80,000, as increased from time to time under section 3564 of this title.

"(b) Within the aggregate amount provided for in subsection (a), educational assistance

under this chapter may be paid for any purpose, and in any amount, as follows:

"(1) A program of education consisting of institutional courses.

"(2) A full-time program of education that consists of institutional courses and alternate phases of training in a business or industrial establishment with the training in the business or industrial establishment being strictly supplemental to the institutional portion.

"(3) A farm cooperative program consisting of institutional agricultural courses prescheduled to fall within 44 weeks of any period of 12 consecutive months that is pursued by an eligible person who is concurrently engaged in agricultural employment that is relevant to such institutional agricultural courses as determined under standards prescribed by the Secretary.

"(4) A course or courses or other program of special educational assistance as provided in section 3491(a) of this title.

"(5) A program of apprenticeship or other on-job training pursued in a State as provided in section 3687(a) of this title.

"(6) In the case of an eligible spouse or surviving spouse, a program of education exclusively by correspondence as provided in section 3686 of this title.

"(7) Special restorative training as provided in section 3542 of this title.

"(c) If a program of education is pursued by an eligible person at an institution located in the Republic of the Philippines, any educational assistance for such person under this chapter shall be paid at the rate of \$0.50 for each dollar.

"(d)(1) Subject to paragraph (2), the amount of educational assistance payable under this chapter for a licensing or certification test described in section 3501(a)(5) of this title is the lesser of \$2,000 or the fee charged for the test.

"(2) In no event shall payment of educational assistance under this subsection for such a test exceed the amount of the available entitlement for the individual under this chapter."

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Title 38, United States Code, is amended as follows:

(A) By striking section 3533 and inserting the following new section:

"§ 3533. Tutorial assistance

"An eligible person shall, without any charge to any entitlement of such person to educational assistance under section 3532(a) of this title, be entitled to the benefits provided an eligible veteran under section 3492 of this title."

(B) Section 3534 is repealed.

(C) In section 3542—

(i) in subsection (a), by striking "computed at the basic rate" and all that follows through the end of the subsection and inserting a period; and

(ii) in subsection (b), by striking "an educational assistance allowance" and inserting "educational assistance".

(D) In section 3543(c)—

(i) in paragraph (1), by adding "and" at the end;

(ii) by striking paragraph (2); and

(iii) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (2).

(E) In section 3564, by striking "rates payable under sections 3532, 3534(b), and 3542(a)" and inserting "aggregate amount of educational assistance payable under section 3532".

(F) In section 3565(b), by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following new paragraph (1):

"(1) educational assistance payable under section 3532 of this title, including the special training allowance referred to in subsection (b)(7) of such section, shall be paid at the rate of \$0.50 for each dollar; and".

(G) In section 3687—

(i) in subsection (a)—

(I) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “or an eligible person (as defined in section 3501(a) of this title)”;

(II) in the flush matter following paragraph (2), by striking “chapters 34 and 35” and inserting “chapter 34”;

(ii) in subsection (c), by striking “chapters 34 and 35” and inserting “chapter 34”;

(iii) in subsection (e), by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following new paragraph (3):

“(3) In this subsection, the term ‘individual’ means an eligible veteran who is entitled to monthly educational assistance allowances payable under section 3015(e) of this title.”.

(d) OTHER CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Title 38, United States Code, is further amended as follows:

(1) In section 3524, by striking “the educational assistance allowance” each place it appears and inserting “educational assistance”.

(2) In section 3531—

(A) in the heading, by striking “allowance”;

(B) in subsection (a), by striking “an educational assistance allowance” and inserting “educational assistance”; and

(C) in subsection (b), by striking “allowance”.

(3) In section 3537(a), by striking “additional”.

(e) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 35 of such title is amended as follows:

(1) By striking the item relating to section 3511 and inserting the following new item:

“3511. Treatment of certain interruptions in pursuit of programs of education.”.

(2) By striking the items relating to section 3531, 3532, and 3533 and inserting the following new items:

“3531. Educational assistance.

“3532. Amount of educational assistance.

“3533. Tutorial assistance.”.

(3) By striking the item relating to section 3534.

(4) By striking the item relating to section 3541 and inserting the following new item:

“3541. Special restorative training.”.

(f) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) ANNUAL ADJUSTMENTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008.—Notwithstanding the effective date under paragraph (1) of the amendment to section 3564 of title 38, United States Code, made by subsection (c)(2)(E), the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall make the first increase in the aggregate amount of educational assistance under section 3532 of such title as required by such section 3564 (as so amended) for fiscal year 2008.

SUMMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 86—DESIGNATING MARCH 1, 2007, AS “SIBLINGS CONNECTION DAY”

Mr. SALAZAR (for himself, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. KERRY, and Mr. AKAKA) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 86

Whereas sibling relationships are among the longest-lasting and most significant relationships in life;

Whereas brothers and sisters share history, memories, and traditions that bind them together as family;

Whereas it is estimated that over 65 percent of children in foster care have siblings, many of whom are separated when placed in the foster care system, adopted, or confronted with different kinship placements;

Whereas children in foster care are at greater risk than their peers of having emotional disturbances, problems in school, and difficulties with relationships later in life;

Whereas the separation of siblings while children causes additional grief and loss;

Whereas organizations and private volunteer efforts exist that advocate for preserving sibling relationships in foster care settings and that give siblings in foster care the opportunity to reunite;

Whereas Camp to Belong, a nonprofit organization founded in 1995 by Lynn Price, heightens public awareness of the need to preserve sibling relationships in foster care settings and gives siblings in foster care the opportunity to be reunited; and

Whereas Camp to Belong has reunited over 2,000 separated siblings across the United States, the United States Virgin Islands, and Canada: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates March 1, 2007, as “Siblings Connection Day”;

(2) encourages the people of the United States to celebrate sibling relationships on Siblings Connection Day; and

(3) supports efforts to respect and preserve sibling relationships that are at risk of being disrupted by the placement of children in the foster care system.

SENATE RESOLUTION 87—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE PRESIDENT SHOULD IMPLEMENT A COMPREHENSIVE INTERAGENCY PROGRAM TO REDUCE THE LUNG CANCER MORTALITY RATE BY AT LEAST 50 PERCENT BY 2015

Mr. HAGEL (for himself, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. BROWNBACK, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 87

Whereas lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death for both men and women, accounting for 28 percent of all cancer deaths;

Whereas lung cancer kills more people annually than breast cancer, prostate cancer, colon cancer, liver cancer, melanoma, and kidney cancer combined;

Whereas, since the National Cancer Act of 1971 (Public Law 92-218; 85 Stat. 778), coordinated and comprehensive research has raised the 5-year survival rates for breast cancer to 88 percent, for prostate cancer to 99 percent, and for colon cancer to 64 percent;

Whereas the 5-year survival rate for lung cancer is still only 15 percent and a similar coordinated and comprehensive research effort is required to achieve increases in lung cancer survivability rates;

Whereas 60 percent of lung cancer cases are now diagnosed in nonsmokers or former smokers;

Whereas ⅓ of nonsmokers diagnosed with lung cancer are women;

Whereas certain minority populations, such as Black males, have disproportionately high rates of lung cancer incidence and mortality, notwithstanding their lower smoking rate;

Whereas members of the baby boomer generation are entering their sixties, the most common age at which people develop cancer;

Whereas tobacco addiction and exposure to other lung cancer carcinogens such as Agent Orange and other herbicides and battlefield emissions are serious problems among military personnel and war veterans;

Whereas the August 2001 Report of the Lung Cancer Progress Review Group of the National Cancer Institute stated that funding for lung cancer research was “far below the levels characterized for other common malignancies and far out of proportion to its massive health impact”;

Whereas the Report of the Lung Cancer Progress Review Group identified as its “highest priority” the creation of integrated, multidisciplinary, multi-institutional research consortia organized around the problem of lung cancer rather than around specific research disciplines; and

Whereas the United States must enhance its response to the issues raised in the Report of the Lung Cancer Progress Review Group: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that the President should—

(1) declare lung cancer a public health priority and immediately lead a coordinated effort to reduce the lung cancer mortality rate by 50 percent by 2015;

(2) direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to increase funding for lung cancer research and other lung cancer-related programs as part of a coordinated strategy with defined goals, including—

(A) translational research and specialized lung cancer research centers;

(B) expansion of existing multi-institutional, population-based screening programs incorporating state-of-the-art image processing, centralized review, clinical management, and tobacco cessation protocols;

(C) research on disparities in lung cancer incidence and mortality rates;

(D) graduate medical education programs in thoracic medicine and cardiothoracic surgery;

(E) new programs within the Food and Drug Administration to expedite the development of chemoprevention and targeted therapies for lung cancer;

(F) annual reviews by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality of lung cancer screening and treatment protocols;

(G) the appointment of a lung cancer director within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention with authority to improve lung cancer surveillance and screening programs; and

(H) lung cancer screening demonstration programs under the direction of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services;

(3) direct the Secretary of Defense, in conjunction with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, to develop a broad-based lung cancer screening and disease management program among members of the Armed Forces and veterans, and to develop technologically advanced diagnostic programs for the early detection of lung cancer;

(4) appoint a Lung Cancer Scientific and Medical Advisory Committee, comprised of medical, scientific, pharmaceutical, and patient advocacy representatives, to—

(A) work with the National Lung Cancer Public Health Policy Board described in paragraph (5); and

(B) report to the President and Congress on the progress toward and the obstacles to achieving the goal described in paragraph (1) of reducing the lung cancer mortality rate by 50 percent by 2015; and

(5) convene a National Lung Cancer Public Health Policy Board, comprised of multi-agency and multidepartment representatives and at least 3 members of the Lung Cancer